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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 2 May 1951

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Issue

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1. The Deutsche Notenbank (Soviet Zone Bank of Issue) has ordered the printing of new bank notes for the Soviet Zone of Germany by the State Printing Office which has been transferred from Berlin to Leipzig. The notes in circulation at the present time are said to have been printed in the USSR. They bear no watermarks, whereas the new notes are to be watermarked. More than 200 tons of paper was delivered to Leipzig for the printing of these notes.
2. The copper plate printing press which is to be used for the printing is one which was confiscated on the border of the Soviet Zone of Germany and taken to Leipzig when an attempt was made to ship it from West-Berlin to Western Germany. An unidentified private individual was directed by the Deutsche Notenbank to procure, in the Western Zones of Germany, a rubber cloth which is necessary for operating the printing press. The cloth was smuggled into Berlin on an American aircraft which landed at Tempelhof.
3. A total of 4,200,000,000 eastmarks was in circulation in the Soviet Zone of Germany as of 1 February 1951.

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